

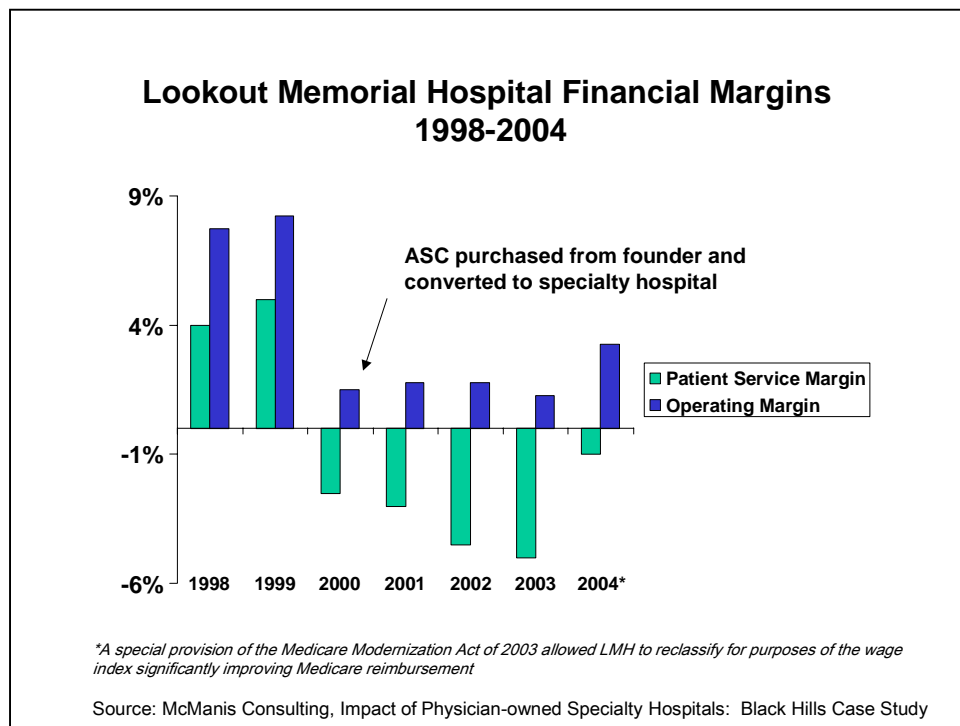


Self-referral to limited-service hospitals: Bad for America's health care system!

FACT Fax

Physician-owned limited-service hospitals damage the financial health of full-service hospitals making them less able to meet the needs of their communities.

In Spearfish, South Dakota, a community of just 9300, the opening of a physician-owned surgical hospital left Lookout Memorial Hospital (LMH) struggling to keep its doors open. The movement of healthier, well-insured patients to the physician-owned hospital has siphoned off resources critical to LMH's continued ability to meet the needs of the broader community. Patients have lost access to important services like hospice care and home health.



CLOSE THE LOOPHOLE:

Make permanent the ban on physician self-referral to new limited-service hospitals.

